

In the Claims

1 1. [Original] A method of configuring a hard copy output engine
2 comprising:
3 downloading data including a configuration plug-in and configuration data
4 each including user-specified information; and
5 configuring the hard copy output engine using the downloaded data.

1 2. [Original] The method of claim 1, wherein the configuration plug-in
2 and configuration data include data prepared by:
3 determining a make and model for the hard copy output engine; and
4 determining user thresholds for consumables associated with the hard
5 copy output engine.

1 3. [Original] The method of claim 1, wherein downloading includes:
2 sending an electronic message via the Internet to a website for a vendor
3 associated with the hard copy output engine; and
4 receiving an electronic message via the Internet in response to sending.

1 4. [Original] The method of claim 1, wherein downloading includes:
2 sending an electronic message via the Internet to a vendor associated
3 with the hard copy output engine; and
4 receiving an electronic message via the Internet in response to sending,
5 wherein sending and receiving include transmission across a firewall.

1 5. [Original] The method of claim 1, wherein configuring includes
2 setting a threshold for an element chosen from a group consisting of:
3 pigmentation material, marking material, number of hours of operation and
4 number of sheets of print media consumed.

1 6. [Original] The method of claim 1, wherein the hard copy output
2 engine is chosen from a group consisting of: facsimile machines, photocopiers
3 and printers.

1 7. [Original] The method of claim 1, wherein the configuration plug-in
2 and configuration data include data prepared by:
3 determining a make and model for the hard copy output engine;
4 determining a serial number for the hard copy output engine; and
5 determining user thresholds for consumables associated with the hard
6 copy output engine.

1 8. [Original] An article of manufacture comprising a computer usable
2 medium having computer readable code embodied therein that is configured to
3 cause a processor to:
4 download data including a configuration plug-in and configuration data
5 each including user-specified information; and
6 configure a hard copy output engine using the downloaded data.

1 9. [Original] The article of manufacture of claim 8, wherein the
2 computer readable code configured to cause the processor to configure the hard
3 copy output engine includes computer readable code configured to cause the
4 processor to:
5 determine a make and model for the hard copy output engine; and
6 determine user thresholds for consumables associated with the hard copy
7 output engine.

1 10. [Currently Amended] The article of manufacture of claim 8,
2 wherein the computer readable code configured to cause the processor to
3 download data includes computer readable code ~~configured to cause~~ that when
4 executed causes the processor to:
5 send a first electronic message across a firewall via the Internet to a
6 website for a vendor associated with the hard copy output engine; and
7 receive a second electronic message across the firewall via the Internet in
8 response to the first electronic message.

1 11. [Original] The article of manufacture of claim 8, wherein the
2 computer readable code configured to cause the processor to download data
3 includes computer readable code configured to cause the processor to:
4 send a first electronic message across a firewall via the Internet to a
5 website for a vendor associated with the hard copy output engine; and
6 receive a second electronic message across a firewall via the Internet in
7 response to the first electronic message.

1 12. [Original] The article of manufacture of claim 8, wherein the
2 computer readable code configured to cause the processor to configure the hard
3 copy output engine includes computer readable code configured to cause the
4 processor to configure the hard copy output engine using the downloaded data
5 to set a threshold for an element chosen from a group consisting of:
6 pigmentation material, marking material, number of hours of operation and
7 number of sheets of print media consumed.

1 13. [Original] The article of manufacture of claim 8, wherein the
2 computer readable code configured to cause the processor to configure the hard
3 copy output engine includes computer readable code configured to cause the
4 processor to configure a hard copy output engine chosen from a group
5 consisting of: facsimile machines, photocopiers and printers.

1 14. [Original] The article of manufacture of claim 8, wherein the
2 computer readable code configured to cause the processor to configure the hard
3 copy output engine includes computer readable code configured to cause the
4 processor to:
5 determine a make and model for the hard copy output engine;
6 determine a serial number for the hard copy output engine; and
7 determine user thresholds for consumables associated with the hard copy
8 output engine.

1 15. [Currently Amended] A computer implemented control system for
2 a hard copy output engine, the system comprising:
3 memory configured to store a software module; and
4 processing circuitry configured to employ the software module to:
5 download data including ~~a configuration plug-in and~~ configuration
6 data each including user-specified information; and
7 configure a hard copy output engine using the downloaded data.

1 16. [Original] The computer implemented control system of claim 15,
2 wherein the processing circuitry configured to employ the software module
3 further comprises processing circuitry configured to employ the software module
4 to:
5 determine a make and model for the hard copy output engine; and
6 determine user thresholds for consumables associated with the hard copy
7 output engine.

1 17. [Original] The computer implemented control system of claim 15,
2 wherein the processing circuitry configured to employ the software module to
3 configure includes processing circuitry configured to employ the software
4 module to configure the hard copy output engine using the downloaded data to
5 set a threshold for an element chosen from a group consisting of: pigmentation
6 material, marking material, number of hours of operation and number of sheets
7 of print media consumed.

1 18. [Original] The computer implemented control system of claim 15,
2 wherein the processing circuitry configured to employ the software module
3 further includes processing circuitry configured to employ the software module
4 to:
5 send a first electronic message across a firewall via the Internet to a
6 vendor associated with the hard copy output engine; and
7 receive a second electronic message across the firewall via the Internet in
8 response to the first electronic message.

1 19. [Original] The computer implemented control system of claim 15,
2 wherein the hard copy output engine is chosen from a group consisting of:
3 facsimile machines, photocopiers and printers.

1 20. [Original] The computer implemented control system of claim 15,
2 wherein the processing circuitry configured to employ the software module
3 further comprises processing circuitry configured to employ the software module
4 to:

5 determine a make and model for the hard copy output engine;
6 determine a serial number for the hard copy output engine; and
7 determine user thresholds for consumables associated with the hard copy
8 output engine.

1 21. [Original] A computer instruction signal embodied in a carrier wave
2 carrying instructions that when executed by a processor cause the processor to:
3 download data including a configuration plug-in and configuration data
4 each including user-specified information; and
5 configure a hard copy output engine using the downloaded data.

1 22. [Original] The computer instruction signal of claim 21, wherein the
2 computer instruction signal embodied in the carrier wave carrying instructions
3 that cause the processor to configure the hard copy output engine includes a
4 computer instruction signal carrying instructions that when executed cause the
5 processor to:
6 determine a make and model for the hard copy output engine; and
7 determine user thresholds for consumables associated with the hard copy
8 output engine.

1 23. [Original] The computer instruction signal of claim 21, wherein the
2 computer instruction signal embodied in the carrier wave carrying instructions
3 that cause the processor to download data includes a computer instruction
4 signal carrying instructions that cause the processor to:

5 send a first electronic message across a firewall via the Internet to a
6 website for a vendor associated with the hard copy output engine; and
7 receive a second electronic message across the firewall via the Internet in
8 response to the first electronic message.

1 24. [Original] The computer instruction signal of claim 21, wherein the
2 computer instruction signal embodied in the carrier wave carrying instructions
3 that cause the processor to download data includes a computer instruction
4 signal carrying instructions that when executed cause the processor to:

5 send a first electronic message across a firewall via the Internet to a
6 website for a vendor associated with the hard copy output engine; and
7 receive a second electronic message across a firewall via the Internet in
8 response to the first electronic message.

1 25. [Original] The computer instruction signal of claim 21, wherein the
2 computer instruction signal embodied in the carrier wave carrying instructions
3 that cause the processor to configure the hard copy output engine includes a
4 computer instruction signal carrying instructions that when executed cause the
5 processor to configure the hard copy output engine using the downloaded data
6 to set a threshold for an element chosen from a group consisting of:
7 pigmentation material, marking material, number of hours of operation and
8 number of sheets of print media consumed.

1 26. [Original] The computer instruction signal of claim 21, wherein the
2 computer instruction signal embodied in the carrier wave carrying instructions
3 that cause the processor to configure the hard copy output engine includes a
4 computer instruction signal carrying instructions that when executed cause the
5 processor to configure a hard copy output engine chosen from a group
6 consisting of: facsimile machines, photocopiers and printers.

1 27. [Original] The computer instruction signal of claim 21, wherein the
2 computer instruction signal embodied in the carrier wave carrying instructions
3 that cause the processor to configure the hard copy output engine includes a

4 computer instruction signal carrying instructions that when executed cause the
5 processor to:

- 6 determine a make and model for the hard copy output engine;
- 7 determine a serial number for the hard copy output engine; and
- 8 determine user thresholds for consumables associated with the hard copy
9 output engine.

1 28. [New] The method of claim 1, wherein the downloading
2 comprising downloading a value, and the configuring comprises setting a
3 threshold for a consumable associated with the hard copy output engine using
4 the value.

1 29. [New] The method of claim 1, wherein the downloading
2 comprising downloading a threshold for replenishment of a consumable
3 associated with the hard copy output engine.

1 30. [New] The method of claim 29, wherein the configuring comprises
2 setting the threshold of the hard copy output engine.

1 31. [New] The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 providing the user-specified information from a user; and
3 generating at least one of the configuration plug-in and configuration data
4 using the user-specified information before the downloading.

1 32. [New] The method of claim 1, wherein the configuring comprises
2 altering the hard copy output engine.

1 33. [New] The method of claim 1, wherein the configuring comprises
2 altering an operation of the hard copy output engine with respect to formation of
3 hard images upon paper.

1 34. [New] The computer implemented control system of claim 15,
2 wherein the processing circuitry is configured to employ the software module to

3 set a threshold for replenishment of a consumable associated with the hard copy
4 output engine to configure the hard copy output engine.

1 35. [New] The computer implemented control system of claim 15,
2 wherein the processing circuitry is configured to employ the software module to
3 configure the hard copy output engine comprising altering the hard copy output
4 engine.

1 36. [New] The computer implemented control system of claim 15,
2 wherein the processing circuitry is configured to employ the software module to
3 configure the hard copy output engine comprising altering an operation of the
4 hard copy output engine with respect to formation of hard images upon paper.

1 37. [New] A configuration method comprising:
2 discovering a plurality of hard copy output engines coupled with a
3 network;
4 accessing user input information using a device external of the hard copy
5 output engines;
6 generating configuration data responsive to the user input information
7 using the device;
8 communicating the configuration data from the device to the hard copy
9 output engines; and
10 setting thresholds of the hard copy output engines for replenishment of
11 consumables of the respective hard copy output engines using the configuration
12 data.

1 38. [New] The method of claim 37, wherein the communicating
2 comprises communicating executable instructions which configure individual
3 ones of the hard copy output engines to perform the setting for the respective
4 individual hard copy output engine.

39. [New] The method of claim 37, wherein the discovering comprises
discovering using a discovery plug-in.